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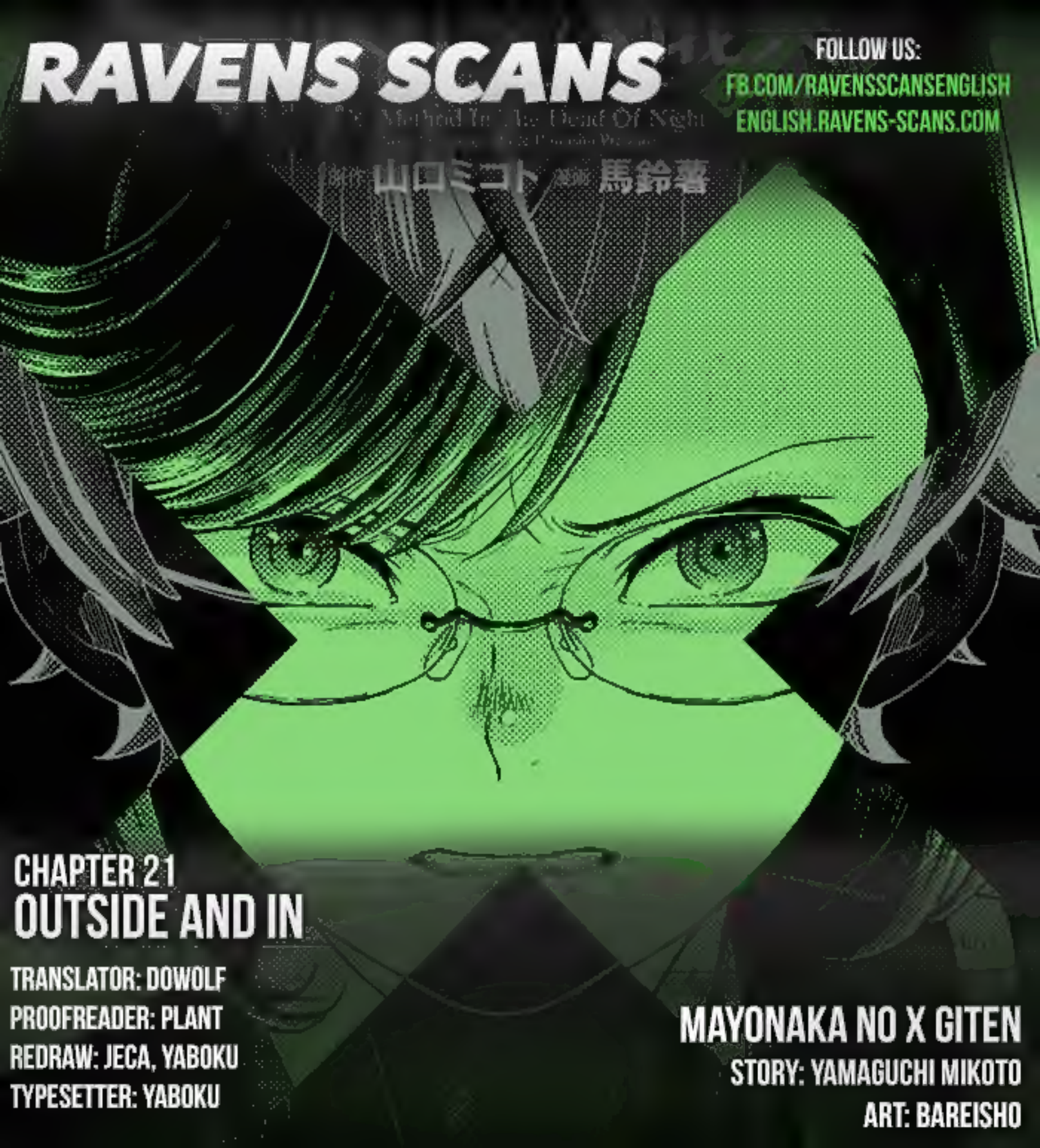

CHAPTER 21
OUTSIDE AND IN

TRANSLATOR: DOWOLF
PROOFREADER: PLANT
REDRAW: JECA, YABOKU
TYPESETTER: YABOKU

MAYONAKA NO X GITEN

STORY: YAMAGUCHI MIKOTO
ART: BAREISHO

DUDE, I KNEW THAT HOURS AGO.

AND BESIDES, THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

SO AT THE NEXT BKR CONCERT, MIKU-MIKU'S GONNA BE THERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOREVER!

SERIOUSLY?! SHIT, TICKETS ARE GONNA BE HARD TO GET.

I HEARD THAT THEY'RE GONNA INTRODUCE A NEW SONG AND A NEW MEMBER.

[sfx]: Swipe

HUH?

WELL, ABOUT THAT...

SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE NOT GOING WITH A NORMAL RAFFLE THIS TIME.

真夜中のX儀典

#21: OUTSIDE AND IN MIKURIYA MIKONI'S RETURN SPECIAL CONCERT

GUESS THE LYRICS!

TOP PRIORITY GOES TO WHOEVER CAN FILL THE BLANKS IN THE LYRICS!

GUESS THE LYRICS FOR THE NEW SONG, AND IMMEDIATELY GET A TICKET TO THE PERFORMANCE ♡

TOUCH!

STORY / YAMAGUCHI MIKOTO　　ART / BAREISHO

THE SOLE CLUE IS RUMORED TO BE THE SONG'S TITLE.

THE FANS ARE WRESTLING WITH THE SUDDEN CHALLENGE.

AND THAT TITLE...

AND FOR OUR NEXT STORY,

MIKUNI'S RETURN SPECIAL CONCERT

What are the new song's lyrics?

THE POPULAR IDOL GROUP BKR48 ARE ASKING FANS TO GUESS THE LYRICS TO THEIR NEW SONG.

[sfx]: Glance

...I GET IT. THE TITLE... AND THESE LYRICS...

THEY'RE A CHALLENGE SENT TO X.

Outside and In

IS "OUTSIDE AND IN."

スッ

WHICH MEANS, COME THAT DAY, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MEET SACHI AS WELL.

...INTERES-TING.

THEY DID? THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT TO SEE IS IF X SHOWS UP AS CHALLENGED.

...IF NOTHING ELSE, WE SHOULD'VE CAUGHT X'S EYE.

WE'VE GOT THE INFORMATION SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. EVEN THE MEDIA PICKED UP THE STORY.

BKR

THE BAKUAN SHRINE

I WONDER IF THE PLAN'LL WORK...

[sfx]: Clap clap!

LET'S GET THIS STARTED.

UP

OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH WARMING UP.

...NO, THERE CAN'T.

AND I SHOULD DO EVERYTHING I CAN.

[sfx]: Stretch

YOU KNOW THERE CAN'T BE ANY MORE MISTAKES.

HEY,

DO I REALLY HAVE TO DO THIS?

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

[sfx]: Pose!

BKR CONCERT HALL

THE BAKUAN SHRINE

#4 MON QUIHO

The Day of the Concert

[sfx]: *Crowd noises*

BAKUAN SHRINE

MON QUIHO

GYAH!!

I DIDN'T WIN A TICKET!!

[sfx]: Stirs

WELL, SIX PEOPLE SOLVED IT IN ALL.

DID ANYONE ANSWER THAT QUESTION CORRECTLY?

ALL TO DISTURB OUR INVES-TIGATION.

...X MUST BE BEHIND THAT.

COULDN'T WE SIMPLY ARREST ALL SIX OF THOSE INDI-VIDUALS?

A LOT OF PEOPLE POSTED ON THE 'NET WHAT THEY THOUGHT THE ANSWERS WOULD BE. ONE OF THEM WAS RIGHT.

!?

THAT MANY?!

IF WE WIND UP ARRESTING THE WRONG PEOPLE, WE'D BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO X'S HANDS.

SCREW THINGS UP BADLY ENOUGH, AND WE MIGHT NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE.

HE MIGHT HAVE LEAKED THE ANSWER AND THEN NOT SUBMIT IT HIMSELF. THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE'S ONE OF THE SIX!

X IS AS SLY AS A FOX.

NO, WE CAN'T!

[sfx]: Tap

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THAT IS THE MOST FOOLISH THING I HAVE EVER HEARD.

I UNDERS-TAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING,

BUT EVEN IF UNLIKELY, SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO ALL OF YOU—

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE AN IDOL'S EXPERIENCE.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, NO MATTER WHO IS IN THE STANDS, WE IDOLS WILL STILL BE THE ONES PERFORMING ON STAGE.

AND BEFORE WE MADE IT BIG, WE HAD TO MAKE IT THROUGH SOME PRETTY DANGE-ROUS TIMES.

HOWEVER! UNTIL YOU GRADUATE, DON'T FORGET: RELATIONSHIPS ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!

I-I KNOW THAT!!

MIKUNI, IF YOU'VE GONE FROM BEING A WORKAHOLIC TO THAT, WELL...

YOU MUST'VE MET SOMEONE NICE.

.....

Mngh-

BESIDES, AFTER YOU CAME TO OUR CENTER CRYING YOUR HEART OUT, HOW COULD WE SAY NO?

I-I WASN'T CRYING!!

DETECTIVE, WITH OUR NEW MEMBER, WE CAN HANDLE OURSELVES.

OF COURSE.

I SWEAR BY OUR PRIDE AS POLICEMEN THEY'LL BE SAFE.

INSTEAD,

COULD I PLEASE ASK THAT YOU ENSURE NONE OF OUR FANS ARE HARMED?

TODAY ONLY?!

WE HAVE FOR YOU A UNIQUE SETLIST TO BE USED TODAY ONLY.

I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY IT ♡

WONDER WHAT'S GONNA BE DIFFE-RENT.

[sfx]: Stirs

THAT CAME TO YOU FROM BKR48'S MIKURIYA MIKUNI!

WHOA!

AND WITH THAT, IT'S TIME TO RAISE THE CURTAIN!

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO TODAY'S SPECIAL BKR48 CONCERT.

WHOAAA

Our plan was to lure X to our concert.

meant that X couldn't use Kirishima Aï's Cross Ability, Love's Lullaby.

The thunderous volume

K-BAR VIBER!

CYBER FIBER!

TIGER FIRE!

Of course, the only way to completely cut it off was to make sure the music never stopped.

So we couldn't take any breaks.

We had to keep the concert going at full throttle.

WHAT OF THE SIX?

And in fact, it would seem Ai was nowhere within the hall.

AT PRESENT, NONE OF THEM HAS ACTED SUSPICIOUSLY.

Without a doubt, X was sharp. Since that possibility existed, X almost certainly wouldn't appear in Ai's body.

How had we initially drawn X to us?

...THEN IF X DOES TAKE ACTION, IT REALLY WILL BE DURING THE NEW SONG.

In truth...

By hiding a secret within the new piece's lyrics.

We didn't know if we had every detail right.

But we were certain that X wouldn't want the full story made public.

They spelled out the truth of what happened during the Kirishima Family Murder Incident.

NEXT IS THE NEW PIECE.

Which meant the true battle would be when we introduced the song.

And thus, the challenge. If X didn't want what lay hidden within the lyrics to be made public, X should come and stop us.

NEXT IS OUR NEW PIECE.

IT'S A UNIT SONG TOGETHER WITH OUR NEW MEMBER.

Huff

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT.

Huff

OUTSIDE...

AND IN.

I'M ON THE INSIDE.

I'M ON THE OUTSIDE.

ALWAYS WITH A TEAR, AND SEEKING TO BREAK IT ALL

ALWAYS WITH A SMILE, AND SEEKING LOVE FROM YOU ALL

MY HEART GROWS DISTANT

IT'S GOING TO BREAK.

ON THE MIRROR AND ASK.

SO I LAY MY RIGHT HAND

SO I LAY MY LEFT HAND

I'M GOING TO BREAK.

IS IT ALL MY FAULT?

AM I TO BLAME?

WHY DO YOU CRY?

DOES LOVING ME SCAR YOU?

BUT THERE'S A PERSON I LOVE.

A PERSON WHO LOVES ME

SO I CAN STILL HANG IN THERE.

IT'S GOING TO BREAK.

MY HEART GROWS DISTANT... TRULY. TRULY DISTANT.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

NO.

IT'S ALL THEIRS!

I KNEW IT WAS MY FAULT.

NO, I DID NOTHING WRONG.

HEY. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HMM. LET'S...

HALF FOR THE OUTSIDE, HALF FOR THE IN!

LET'S JUST SPLIT IN HALF.

AND I,
THE OUTSIDE,
WILL BREAK
IT ALL!

WAAAAHHHHHHHHHH!

BATHUMP

AKARI

島津利佳子

[sfx]: Shove

!?

68

THERE!

HAS X FINALLY MADE THEIR MOVE?

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE JULY ISSUE 7 ON SALE 5/27